

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A building management system comprising:
a plurality of controller devices, and
a front end device,

wherein each controller device of the plurality of controller devices is adapted to transmit a configuration data request if not configured to perform its appointed role, the configuration data request containing data that indicates at least one of the type and the functionality of the controller device requiring the configuration data, and

the front-end device is networked to the plurality of controller devices and-adapted to respond to such a configuration data request by broadcasting a configuration data response containing the required configuration data to all the controller devices, and

wherein each broadcast configuration data response includes information to enable each controller device to determine whether to act on or ignore the broadcast configuration data response.

2. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 1, wherein the configuration data responses are IP multicast transmissions, the controller devices all sharing the same IP multicast address.

3. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 1, wherein each configuration data response includes a controller device identifier identifying the controller device that requires the configuration data, each controller device being adapted to act only on a configuration data response containing its respective controller device identifier.

4. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 1, wherein each configuration data request includes a controller device identifier identifying the controller device sending the configuration data request, the front end device being adapted to check the controller device identifier in any incoming configuration data request in order to determine the configuration data required.

5. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 1, wherein each controller device is adapted to broadcast a configuration data request to all the other controller devices and the front end device, each such configuration data request including information to enable each device receiving it to determine whether to act on or ignore the configuration data request.

6. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 5, wherein the configuration data requests are IP multicast transmissions, the front end device and controller devices all sharing the same IP-multicast address.

7. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 5, wherein each configuration data request and each configuration data response includes a transmission type identifier identifying the transmission type response, the controller devices being adapted to act only on responses and the front end device being adapted to act only on requests.

8. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 1, wherein each controller device is adapted to check on power-up whether or not it has configuration data to perform its appointed role.

9. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 1, wherein each controller device is adapted to retain, once configured, its configuration data in the event of a restart.

10. (Previously Presented) A building management system according to claim 1, wherein each controller device is adapted to re-transmit a configuration data request if it has not received an acceptable configuration data response within a predetermined interval.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a building management system comprising a front end device networked to a plurality of controller devices, the method comprising:

a. programming each controller device to check whether or not it has configuration data to perform its appointed role, the configuration data pertaining

to at least one of the type and the functionality of the controller device requiring the configuration data and, if not, to transmit a configuration data request; the configuration data request containing data that indicates at least one of the type and the functionality of the controller device requiring the configuration data; and

b. programming the front end device to respond to a configuration data request from a controller device by broadcasting a configuration data response to all the controller devices, each such configuration data response comprising the configuration data required by the controller device that transmitted the configuration data request and information to enable each controller device to determine whether to act on or ignore the configuration data response.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising programming the front end device to send configuration data responses using an IP multicast address registered or to be registered by the controller devices.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising programming the front end device to include a controller device identifier identifying the controller device that requires the configuration data in each configuration data response and programming each controller device to act only on a configuration data response comprising its respective controller device identifier.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising programming each controller device to include in each data request it sends a controller device identifier identifying itself and programming the front end device to

check the controller device identifier in any incoming configuration data request in order to determine the configuration data required.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising programming each controller device to broadcast a configuration data request to all the other controller devices and the front end device, each such configuration data request including information to enable each device receiving it to determine whether to act on or ignore the configuration data request.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, comprising programming the controller devices to send configuration data requests using an IP multicast address registered or to be registered by all the controller devices and the front end device.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, comprising programming the controller devices and front end device to include a transmission type identifier in any configuration data request or configuration data response being sent identifying the transmission type as a request or response and programming the controller devices to act only on responses and the front end device to act only on requests.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising programming each controller device to check on power up whether or not it has configuration data to perform its appointed role.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising programming each controller device to retain, once configured, its configuration data in the event of a restart.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, comprising programming each controller device to re-transmit a configuration data request if it has not received an acceptable configuration data response within a predetermined interval.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A building management system comprising a front end device networked to a plurality of controller devices, wherein:

each controller device is adapted to check whether or not it has configuration data to perform its appointed role, the configuration data pertaining to at least one of the type and the functionality of the controller device requiring the configuration data and, if not, to transmit a configuration data request; the configuration data request containing data that indicates at least one of the type and the functionality of the controller device requiring the configuration data; and

the front end device is adapted to respond to a configuration data request from a controller device by broadcasting a configuration data response to all

the controller devices, each such configuration data response comprising the configuration data required by the controller device that transmitted the configuration data request and information to enable each controller device to determine whether to act on or ignore the configuration data response.